Hal Verb
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6/8/95

Dear Hal,

I appreciate the time you took for your 6/5 and for the errata. I'll be reading the enclosures, which look interesting, rather slowly. I haven't gotten far in my own book! The reason is I've added too much to that kept me busy enough. As I think I told you I was engaged in a book more or less Mailer's Tales, Of the JFK Assassination, when I got Newman's. Possibly because I'd looked forward to it with such anticipation I was more shocked at how terrible, amateurish, ingorant and inaccurate it is in addition to which he like Mailer assumes Oswald's guilt. To this, with Nothing but the moth ambodorous smoke, he has it a Cassto job. So, I let Mailer wait, and please keep this to yourself because I'm too frail, too tired for any controversies or unnecessary letters, I've written about 30,——35,000 words on Newman's book. I'm now just starting to read and correct it. After that I'm a Mailer Man again. I think it is fair to add dishonest to what I've said about Newman's book.

Little by little I'm hearing about NEVER AGAIN! but I'm still hearing of places it is not on sale and is not known. The reaction so far is all very good.

I have a good supply of indexes but I'll appreciate it if requests for them have at SASE, three stamps for this size envelope, four for a manilla for it not to be bent. I don't want to take any time from writing.. Besides which - make mistakes, as you know.

I'm glad you spoke to Gary. I do not really care what he and Mantik may publish but I've formed a high opinion of Gary as a human being and I hate to see him risking damaging his reputation. I think he is kidding himself in his formulation of not saying there was faking. Why else raise the question? They are hung up on it and it makes no sense at all. If Gary had done what I suggested as soon as I knew NA was to be printed, use its contents to the president of the AMA and then demand that for the harm they did the AMA and its reputation and for the harm to the country Lundberg and Breo be told to take a walk. It he had done that Breo would not have been able to pretend they were untouched and without genuine criticism in his response to Crenshaw.

It was fine of Gary to put the index on a floppy dish. I hope it indludes the note that it is unread and uncorrected because there are errors in it.

Newman had to corrupt The Martello Slip to be able to use it as dishonestly as he does. It does have a number of other media people on it, with their phones. And he has no reference to any security clearances leave alone the CRYPTO one, of which he did know. Or the real Oswald number the Commission was given by the Texans, not the one Hudkins said he made up. I have him that. Many if not most of those he thanks are unknown to me and I suppose he got his crap and bum steers from some of them.

The name Shannon sounds familiar but I've no clear recollection. I think as you do about him but there can be many of that name.

I hope the ARRB does call Mailer. It will make it ever clearer that they are not serious and are giving all the nuts all the attention they want so the ARRB can later say we listened to all, etc. I've been after them with some vigor but I've made the record I wanted to make and plan no more.

Holland is one of those self-important intellectuals to whom fact is irrelevant and who is convinced that whatever pops into his mind at any point is instant fact. He will yet learn that those who write about the assassintion without a firm grounding in the available evidence will besmirch themselves in the end. He has written some silly stuff I've heard of. He was here, knows what I have (his search was on McCloy) and he has not returned to look at any of it or to ask me anything about anything.

That is a wonderful line about Liebeler. It is true of all of them who by now must feel some gnawing at what remains of conscience.

I can use any Mailer howlers, particularly on evidence and why he does not use it, things like that, thanks.

I think you are right about Marina's regrets, over talking to them at all.

I'll be particularly interested in the Backes piece but remember, for it and for other writing, they are limited to bringing existing records to light, not investigating the case.

6/9- Backes is fine!
and I've written The Nation and will enclose it after I correct and copy that.

Thanks and best
Hal